

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PRS-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07  
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4108

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2231

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, CASC, PE  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONSULAR PROTECTION;  
AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, BRIGADIER GENERAL LUIS CISNEROS, ON MARCH 17 TO INTRODUCE THE DCM AND DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS, THE AMBASSADOR'S RECENT VISIT TO LURIGANCHO PRISON, AND NOTIFICATIONS OF ARRESTS OF U.S. CITIZENS. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED NARCOTICS (SEPTEL).

2. HUMAN RIGHTS- RESPONDING TO THE AMBASSADOR'S EXPRESSION OF U.S. INTEREST AND CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY, THE MINISTER OUTLINED HIS VIEWS AT SOME LENGTH. HE AGREED WITH THE AMBASSADOR THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PERU TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE IMAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HE WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE HIS CONCERN TO CORRECT DISTORTIONS OF THAT IMAGE WHICH MAY BE CURRENTLY ABROAD AND WHICH HE SAID ARE NURTURED BY POLITICAL ENEMIES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SHOWED THE AMBASSADOR HIS LATEST STATISTICS ON PRISONERS DETAINED IN PERUVIAN JAILS FOR PROSCRIBED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. THEY SHOW A CURRENT TOTAL OF 121 PRISONERS, INCLUDING 18 WHO ARE BEING HELD FOR VIOLATIONS IN THE LABOR FIELD--PRIMARILY IN CONNECTION WITH ILLEGAL STRIKES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THESE RELATIVELY LOW TOTALS GIVE THE LIE TO ANY CHARGES OF HEAVY-HANDED  
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REPRESSION, AND HE GAVE SOME EXAMPLES OF HARD CORE SUBVERSIVE PLOTS TO UNDERSCORE HIS JUDGMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS IN THESE ARREST CASES ARE MORE AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE REST OF THE CITIZENRY THAN AN EXAMPLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THOSE DETAINED.

3. THE MINISTER ALLUDED SPECIFICALLY TO THE CURRENT CASE OF GENARO LEDESMA IZQUIETA, A PROMINENT LABOR LAWYER WHO HAS BEEN AN ADVISOR TO MARXIST TRADE UNIONS AND WHO HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT AND DEPORTATION IN CONNECTION WITH HIS LABOR ACTIVITIES (LIMA 1825). LEDESMA'S WIFE IS CURRENTLY CHARGING IN THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINES THAT HER HUSBAND WAS ARRESTED FEBRUARY 11 BY POLICE AND HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE NOW UNKNOWN. GENERAL CISNEROS POINTED OUT THAT PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF LEDESMA'S PASSPORT PRINTED IN A MAGAZINE SHOW ONLY THAT LEDESMA LEFT ECUADOR, NOT THAT HE ENTERED LEGALLY INTO PERU AS HIS WIFE CLAIMS. HE REASSERTED THAT LEDESMA IS NOT IN PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT HANDS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO ACTIVITIES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI), GENERAL CISNEROS SAID THAT HE IS BEING BOMBARDED WITH HUNDREDS IF NOT THOUSANDS OF LETTERS PROMPTED BY AI AND SPECIFICALLY BY AI'S REPRESENTATIVE IN LIMA, THE LEFTIST LAWYER LAURA CALLER, AND BY GENARO CARNERO CHECA, A LEFTIST JOURNALIST CURRENTLY IN EXILE IN MEXICO CITY. THE MINISTER SAID THAT AT FIRST HE TRIED TO RESPOND TO ALL THESE LETTERS BUT IS NOW UNABLE TO DO SO DUE TO THEIR NUMBERS. HE SAID THAT HE DOES RESPOND TO THOSE WHICH ARE "CORRECT IN FORM AND TONE," BUT THAT HE DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE THAT ARE INSULTING OR DISRESPECTFUL.

5. THE MINISTER CONCLUDED THAT HE DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS REGULARLY WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND THAT HE IS TAKING ALL THE STEPS HE CAN TO IMPROVE THE TRAINING OF POLICE THROUGHOUT PERU AND THEIR SENSITIVITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS  
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MATTERS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID THAT HE INSISTS ON METICULOUS INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER BEHAVIOR BY THE POLICE, AND THAT HE HAS ORDERED THE REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF 10,000 COPIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS' DECLARATION ON TORTURE AND INHUMANE TREATMENT. THESE ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO ALL POLICE UNITS AND WILL BE READ BY ALL CADETS IN THE VARIOUS POLICE SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES.

6. LURIGANCHO VISIT - THE AMBASSADOR REVIEWED WITH THE MINISTER HIS RECENT VISIT TO LURIGANCHO PRISON, EMPHASIZING THE EMBASSY'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE MINISTRY'S COOPERATION IN ARRANGING THE VISIT, AND FOR ACTIONS TAKEN DURING AND SINCE THAT VISIT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SOME OF THE PRISONERS' COMPLAINTS.

7. ARREST CASES-THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN REQUESTED GOP

COOPERATION IN NOTIFYING THE EMBASSY PROMPTLY OF ALL  
ARRESTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND IN FACILITATING EARLY  
ACCESS TO PRISONERS BY CONSULAR OFFICERS. GENERAL  
CISNEROS RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ESTABLISHED A POLICY OF  
PROMPT CONSULAR NOTIFICATIONS, AND THAT HE WOULD REITERATE  
IT TO ALL CONCERNED.  
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## Message Attributes

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